

What is claimed is:

1. A double-sided keyboard for entering information in an electronic device,
comprising:
 - 5 a circuit board having a first side and an opposing second side;
 - a first plurality of keys adjacent to the first side;
 - a second plurality of keys adjacent to the second side; and
 - a plurality of electrically conductive members disposed on the first side of the
circuit board so that when at least one of the keys is pressed, at least one electrically
10 conductive member is operatively connected to the circuit board for providing a signal
indicative of the information for use in the electronic device.
2. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive members comprise a
plurality of dome-shaped segments for making electrical contact with the circuit board to
15 activate the circuit board for providing the signals.
3. The keyboard of claim 2, wherein the dome-shaped segments are shared with the
first and second plurality of keys such that each dome-shaped segment can be caused to
make electrical contact with the circuit board by either one of the first plurality of keys or
20 one of the second plurality of keys.
4. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive members comprise:
 - a first plurality of dome-shaped segments for making electrical contact with the
circuit board to activate the circuit board by pressing one of the first plurality of keys; and
 - 25 a second plurality of dome-shaped segments for making electrical contact with the
circuit board to activate the circuit board by pressing one of the second plurality of keys.
5. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the first plurality of keys are capable of
activating the circuit board only when the keyboard is oriented in a first direction, and the
30 second plurality of keys are capable of activating the circuit board only when the keyboard

is oriented in a second direction different from the first direction.

6. The keyboard of claim 5, further comprising a mechanism, operatively connected to the circuit board, for determining whether the keyboard is oriented in the first or second direction and for providing a further signal indicative of the orientation direction for use in the electronic device.

7. The keyboard of claim 5, wherein the first plurality of keys are positioned above the circuit board when the keyboard is oriented in the first direction.

8. The keyboard of claim 5, wherein the second plurality of keys are positioned above the circuit board when the keyboard is oriented in the second direction.

9. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the electronic device includes:
a movable cover for implementing said keyboard, and
a device body mechanically and electrically connected to the movable cover for allowing the circuit board to convey the signal from the cover to the device body.

10. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the electronic device includes:
a device body, and
an extended portion for disposing said keyboard, wherein the device body is electrically connected to the extended portion for allowing the circuit board to convey the signal from the extended portion to the device body.

11. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises a device body having a device connector, and the circuit board comprises a circuit connector for electrically connecting to the device connector for conveying the signal from the keyboard to the device body.

12. The keyboard of claim 11, wherein the circuit connector is removable from the

device connector so as to allow the keyboard to be detached from the device body.

13. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the electrically conductive members are fixedly attached to the circuit board.

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14. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a mat disposed between the first plurality of keys and the circuit board, wherein the electrically conductive members are attached to the mat.

10 15. The keyboard of claim 1, further comprising a mat disposed between the first plurality of keys and the circuit board, wherein the electrically conductive members are integrated with the mat.

15 16. The keyboard of claim 1, wherein the keyboard further comprises a first keymat for disposing the first plurality of keys.

17. The keyboard of claim 16, wherein the keyboard further comprises a second keymat for disposing the second plurality of keys.

20 18. The keyboard of claim 17, wherein the circuit board is integrated into the second keymat.

25 19. The keyboard of claim 17, further comprising a mat cover adjacent to the first keymat away from the first side of the circuit board for separating the first plurality of keys.

20. The keyboard of claim 17, further comprising a mat cover adjacent to the second keymat away from the second side of the circuit board for separating the second plurality of keys.

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21. The keyboard of claim 17, wherein the electrically conductive members comprise

a plurality of dome-shaped segments for making electrical contact with the circuit board to activate the circuit board for providing the signal.

22. The keyboard of claim 21, wherein the dome-shaped segments are shared with the
5 first and second plurality of keys such that each dome-shaped segment can be caused to make electrical contact with the circuit board by either one of the first plurality of keys or one of the second plurality of keys.

23. The keyboard of claim 17, wherein the electrically conductive members comprise:
10 a first plurality of dome-shaped segments for making electrical contact with the circuit board to activate the circuit board by pressing one of the first plurality of keys; and a second plurality of dome-shaped segments for making electrical contact with the circuit board to activate the circuit board by pressing one of the second plurality of keys.

15 24. The keyboard of claim 17, wherein the electronic device comprises a device body having a device connector, and the circuit board comprises a circuit connector for electrically connecting to the device connector for conveying the signal from a the keyboard to the device body.

20 25. The keyboard of claim 24, wherein the circuit connector is removable from the device connector so as to allow the keyboard to be detached from the device body.

26. An electronic device including a device body having a body direction facing a user to allow the user to enter information in the electronic device, the electronic device
25 comprising:

a device connector disposed on the device body; and
a double-sided keyboard for entering the information, the keyboard having a first side and an opposing second side, the keyboard comprising:
a circuit connector;
30 a circuit electrically connected to the circuit connector;

a first user interface having a plurality of keys disposed on the first side of the keyboard;

5 a plurality of dome-shaped segments disposed between the keys and the circuit, wherein when at least one of the keys is pressed, at least one of the dome-shaped segments is deformed, causing the first user interface to interact with the circuit for providing signals indicative of the information;

a second user interface disposed on the second side of the keyboard and capable of interacting with the circuit for providing the signals, wherein the circuit connector is electrically connected to the device connector for conveying the signals from the keyboard to the device body when the keyboard is attached to the device body, and the keyboard can be attached to the device body either

10 in a first position such that the first side is oriented in a direction substantially the same as the device direction so as to allow the user to enter the information via the first user interface, or

15 in a second position such that the second side is oriented in a direction substantially the same as the device orientation so as to allow the user to enter the information via the second user interface.

27. The electronic device of claim 26, wherein the second user interface comprises a plurality of further keys, and wherein the further keys cause the circuit to make contact with the dome-shaped segments for providing the signals when at least one of the further keys is pressed.

28. The electronic device of claim 26, wherein the dome-shaped segments are electrically conductive for causing the circuit to provide the signals when the deformed dome-shaped segment is electrically contacting the circuit.

29. The electronic device of claim 26, wherein the second user interface comprises a touch surface, which causes the circuit to provide the signals when the touch surface is touched.

30. The electronic device of claim 26, wherein the second user interface comprises a touch surface, which causes the circuit to provide the signals when pressure is asserted at a location of the touch surface.

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31. The electronic device of claim 30, wherein when at least one of the keys is pressed, the pressed key asserts the pressure to the touch surface through the deformed dome-shaped segment.

10 32. A double-sided keyboard removably attached to an electronic device to allow a user to enter information in the electronic device, the keyboard comprising:

a first side and an opposing second side;

a circuit connector;

a circuit electrically connected to the circuit connector;

15 a first user interface having a plurality of keys disposed on the first side of the keyboard;

a plurality of dome-shaped segments disposed between the keys and the circuit, wherein when at least one of the keys is pressed, at least one of the dome-shaped segments is deformed, causing the first user interface to interact with the circuit for providing signals indicative of the information;

20 a second user interface disposed on the second side of the keyboard and capable of interacting with the circuit for providing the signals, wherein the circuit connector is electrically connected to the device connector for conveying the signals from the keyboard to the device body when the keyboard is attached to the device body.

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33. The removable keyboard of claim 32, wherein the second user interface comprises a plurality of further keys, and wherein the further keys cause the circuit to make contact with the dome-shaped segments for providing the signals when at least one of the further keys is pressed.

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34. The removable keyboard of claim 32, wherein the dome-shaped segments are electrically conductive for causing the circuit to provide the signals when the deformed dome-shaped segment is electrically contacting the circuit.

5 35. The removable keyboard of claim 32, wherein the second user interface comprises a touch surface, which causes the circuit to provide the signals when the touch surface is touched.

10 36. The removable keyboard of claim 32, wherein the second user interface comprises a touch surface, which causes the circuit to provide the signals when pressure is asserted at a location of the touch surface.

15 37. The removable keyboard of claim 36, wherein when at least one of the keys is pressed, the pressed key asserts the pressure to the touch surface through the deformed dome-shaped segment.